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courage is contagious

Viewing cable 09ASHGABAT204, IRAN: TURKMEN SCHOLAR SEES CHANGES IN IRAN

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#09ASHGABAT204**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09ASHGABAT204	2009-02-09 13:10 2011-08-30 01:44		CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Ashgabat

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/04/17/112290/state-department-cables-reveal.html>

VZCZCXRO6275
PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDE RUEHDIR RUEHKUK RUEHLH RUEHPW
RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHAAH #0204 0401310
ZNY CCCCC ZZB
P 091310Z FEB 09
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2299
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4817
RUEHDE/AMCONSUL DUBAI 0081
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 3061
RHMFSS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 000204

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/IR AND SCA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/09/2019

TAGS: [IR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [TX](#)

SUBJECT: IRAN: TURKMEN SCHOLAR SEES CHANGES IN IRAN

Classified By: Charge Richard Miles, reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

11. (C) A prominent Persian language scholar with close ties to Iranian academics told Iran Watcher this week that he fears that vote-rigging, similar to what was alleged to have occurred in the 2005 Iranian Presidential elections, will determine the outcome of Iran's Presidential election in June. XXXXXXXXXX (please protect strictly throughout), a retired professor at XXXXXXXXXX who now teaches XXXXXXXXXX in Ashgabat, said that he believes former President Khatami would win the popular vote "hands down," but fears the election.

12. (C) XXXXXXXXXX attended an international conference of Persian language scholars in Teheran last month said that the Iranians he met with are "tired" and "fed up" with their country's isolation and want a dialog with the United States and the West. He said that having previously visited Iran five years ago, the changes in the country were striking. Whereas on his earlier visit photos of Khomeini were still pretty much ubiquitous, he said he saw very few this time. He said that both in Teheran and at the university XXXXXXXXXX the atmosphere was palpably more relaxed than it had felt anytime since the 1979 revolution. He noticed "a lot more hair showing" (and make-up) on the female students, and was surprised to see young couples hugging or walking hand-in-hand on campus. He also observed a huge increase in prices, noting that a kilo of meat now costs ten dollars in Teheran.

13. (C) NOTE AND COMMENT: XXXXXXXXXX formerly taught XXXXXXXXXX . He served as XXXXXXXXXX interpreter during his official visits to Iran, as well visits of former President Rafsanjani to Ashgabat in the 1990s. Now retired, he teaches translation courses XXXXXXXXXX in Ashgabat. Although he did not provide details in his conversation with Iran Watcher, he has apparently come under pressure from the Turkmen Government recently, which was partially the reason for his departure from the university faculty. XXXXXXXXXX was clearly uncomfortable speaking at length in public even in Farsi. He has many contacts both in Iran and with the Iranian community in Turkmenistan and offered to be in touch with Iran Watcher to facilitate contacts with them. END COMMENT.

MILES